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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 OES-09
DOE-15 SOE-02 INT-05 SAA-01 EA-10 ARA-10 /160 W
----------086754 280419Z /17
R 261253Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8894
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USCINCEUR VAININGEN GERMANY

S E C R E T ALGIERS 2224

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, US, AG
SUBJECT: U.S.-ALGERIAN RELATIONS: AMBASSADOR'S OBSERVATIONS

REF: A) ALGIERS 0371, B) ALGIERS A-044

1. THE FOLLOWING ARE THE SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS OF ALGIERS A-044 GIVING THE AMBASSADOR'S OBSERVATIONS ON U.S.-ALGERIAN RELATIONS AT THE END OF THE AMBASSADOR'S FIRST YEAR IN ALGIERS.

2. AFTER THE AMBASSADOR'S FIRST YEAR IN ALGIERS, U.S.-ALGERIAN RELATIONS CONTINUE TO IMPROVE, ALBEIT AT A SLOWER RATE THAN REPORTED IN THE EMBASSY'S LAST OVERVIEW (CF. REFTEL). OUR ACCESS TO ALGERIAN OFFICIALS IS MUCH GREATER THAN A YEAR AGO. A GOOD TURNOUT OF GOA OFFICIALS
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(FOR ALGIERS) AT OUR JULY 4TH CELEBRATION BROUGHT NODS AND KUDOS FROM DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES. U.S. ECONOMIC INTERESTS CONTINUE TO WORK TO INCREASE THEIR SHARE OF THE ALGERIAN MARKET AND AMERICAN PRESENCE IN THE COUNTRY HAS INCREASED TO A HIGH OF OVER 4,000. THESE INTERESTS ARE NO LONGER CONFINED TO THE HYDROCARBON FIELD, BUT HAVE BRANCHED OUT INTO MINING, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND

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OTHER AREAS. SOME CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE OVER-EXTENSION IN ITS ECONOMIC SPHERE IS BEING SHOWN BY THE GOA AS IT PROCEEDS WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS DEVELOPMENT PLANS.

3. IN THE CULTURAL FIELD, REMARKABLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE. THE GOA IS NOW WILLING TO SIGN A JOINT CULTURAL AGREEMENT AND HAS PERMITTED GREATER NUMBERS OF ALGERIANS TO TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES EITHER AS STUDENTS (UNDER GOA AUSPICES) OR AS VISITOR GRANTEES.

4. IN SUMMARY, U.S.-ALGERIAN RELATIONS HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY NORMAL OVER THE PAST YEAR. IN ITS CONDUCT OF RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA, THE U.S. HAS OBVIOUSLY BEEN MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. WE HAVE KEPT IN MIND THAT OUR "FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVES HAVE BEEN THE PROTEC-TION AND PROMOTION OF OUR ECONOMIC INTERESTS AND THE NORMALIZATION OF THE BILATERAL POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP" (SEE PRM 34). ALTHOUGH POLICY DIFFERENCES REMAIN IN MANY AREAS, SUCH AS MIDDLE EAST AND NIEO, BOTH SIDES APPEAR WILLING TO LIVE WITH THESE DIFFERENCES. WHILE WE ARE STILL NOT AS INFLUENTIAL WITH THE GOA AS WE WOULD LIKE TO BE, WE HAVE GREATER ACCESS TO THEM THAN BEFORE. WITH THE END OF THE VIETNAM WAR, THE INCREAS-ING IMPORTANCE OF OUR ECONOMIC RELATIONS, OUR FORTHRIGHT SOUTHERN AFRICA POLICY AND OUR NEUTRALITY IN THE SAHARA CONFLICT, MANY CONTENTIOUS BILATERAL ISSUES HAVE BEEN

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DISSIPATED. IN OTHER AREAS, SUCH AS CUBAN ACTIVITIES AGAINST SOMALIA AND POSSIBLY IN ERITREA, WE AND THE ALGERIANS ACUTALLY SEE EYE TO EYE.

5. IN SPITE OF THE EMBASSY'S FEARS, WE ARE GLAD TO NOTE NO EFFORTS ON OUR SIDE TO WRITE OFF ALGERIA. WHILE WE CERTAINLY NEED NOT FORM OUR NORTH AFRICAN POLICIES AROUND WHAT THE GOA WOULD LIKE, IT IS, NEVERTHELESS, IMPORTANT TO KEEP IN MIND WHAT EFFECTS OUR POLICIES MIGHT HAVE ON AMERICAN-ALGERAIN RELATIONS. IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO KEEP THE GOA GENERALLY INORMED ABOUT OUR POLICIES, WHETHER FAVORABLE OR NOT. THEY DO NOT NOW EXPECT TOTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES, BUT DO EXPECT RESPECT FOR ALGERIA AS A SOVEREIGN NATION.

6. DURING THE FIRST YEAR OF THE AMBASSADOR'S TENURE, THE ABOVE APPROACH HAS WORKED VERY SUCCESSFULLY. THE EMBASSY,WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S HELP, WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK WAYS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS.STEPHAN

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